



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Conducted by Hybrid Participation

Attendees: Grace Carpenter, Kerrie Fallon, Michael Rademacher, Cynthia DeAngelis, Ileana Gatica

Guests: Tim Ross, Janice Cagan-Tueber, Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Absent: Paul Parravano, Paul Raia

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (5 min)
2. Ground rules (2 min)
 - a. [Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting. The co-chairs have disabilities that make it hard to deal with Zoom chat/messaging]
3. Approve Draft March Meeting Minutes (2 min)
 - a. Rademacher motioned, Carpenter seconded, unanimous
4. Approve Draft April Meetings Minutes (2 min)
 - a. Rademacher motioned, Carpenter seconded, unanimous
5. Budget Presentation (30 min)
 - a. Tabled for June, Christine Bongiorno unable to attend.
6. True Story Theatre: Neurodiversity (2 min)
 - a. May 25th 6-7PM at 27 Maple Street
 - i. Tim to check if hybrid
7. Commission Vacancies Update (5 min)
8. Volunteer for School Meetings (5 min)
 - a. Carpenter stated Paul Raia has been on School Building Committee and someone should be attending meetings if they are still meeting
 - b. DeAngelis stated we should be involved with SEPAC
 - c. Rademacher stated they still have a committee and are still meeting for the high school project. They are in phase 2 currently, but we should have representation.
 - d. Parravano stated that we may want to draft a letter to the committee.
 - e. We will revisit when Paul Raia is back from vacation.
 - f. Gatica stated we should be in contact with SEPAC and the Special Education director.
 - g. DeAngelis stated we had SPED Director visit the commission meeting, may be worth inviting back to reconnect.

9. Minute Taker Volunteer (5 min)

- a. Rebecca Gruber volunteered to take notes when she is attending.
- b. Ellen Leigh, mentioned we could rewatch the recording of the meeting.

10. Town Day (10 min)

- a. DeAngelis stated in previous years the commission paid for Kids on the Block Puppet show to perform during Town Day. It was a great way to attract a crowd and very kid friendly. Sign in sheets, info about the commission. Banner and t-shirt.
- b. Rebecca Gruber stated Town Day will be September 23rd
- c. Gatica stated we should have a primary document of ideas to share.
- d. DeAngelis will look through old documents to help get started. She will contact puppet show about pricing/availability.
- e. Carpenter stated we can start brainstorming during the outreach working group.

11. Subcommittee reports (10 mins)

- a. DEI
 - i. Resources & Connections fair held April 30th.
 - 1. We should invest in tabling materials, banners, brochures
 - 2. Gatica stated it was great to connect with residents and spoke to one who expressed interest in attending meetings and potentially being a volunteer.
 - ii. DC Survey results available
 - iii. Global Accessibility Awareness Day – May 18th, Town post to go out soon highlighting digital accessibility improvements as well as physical spaces
 - iv. Deaf awareness day
- b. DPW
 - i. Chestnut Street project continues, replacing sidewalks, new crosswalks, bump out ramps
 - ii. Work has begun replacing brick from Mass Ave to Whittemore park, reworked accessible parking spots with appropriate ramps from lot to sidewalk
 - iii. DPW Facility phase 1 is near completion, looking to move into building is 1 to 2 weeks. Should be open for Town Day for residents to visit and see the new building.
 - iv. Phase 2 will renovate previous building for IT and Facilities
 - v. HP spots will be at the new facility
 - vi. Parravano congratulated DPW on the snow removal efforts this previous Winter. Rademacher stated more freezing rain and sleeting events than in the past.
 - vii. Gatica asked Rademacher about the Hills Hill that is used for TOPSoccer, the conditions have been poor the past few weeks. Patchy areas, uneven grass, right after a rainstorm which didn't help.
 - 1. Rademacher will look into mowing schedule of field.
 - 2. Carpenter stated Hurd Field was redone and should be open soon, may not be line for soccer, however that may not be an issue for TOPSoccer's purposes.
- c. Remote Meeting Study
 - i. Report completed and given to Town Meeting. Decision up to Select Board to decide how to proceed.
 - 1. Rebecca Gruber stated that the Town has invested in

- equipment for hybrid meetings and may continue to do so.
- 2. Carpenter asked that people joining meeting via zoom let those in the room know if there are issues hearing.
- 3. Fallon stated the new playground at Spy Pond is completed, asked if Commission was aware of renovations?

d. Recreation

- i. Input meeting yesterday to review final design, plan is to bid for construction in June then being renovation.
 - 1. Elisabeth Carr-Jones attended meeting on 5/16/2023. There are plans for curb cuts and at least one HP parking lot space.
 - 2. There are two access points on Eastern Ave currently, however the crosswalk is not accessible. The plan is to improve the entrance with curb cuts.
- ii. Friends of The Robbins Farm Park Renovation Dance Party Fundraiser – Saturday, June 17th from 7-10PM. At Robbins Farm Park.
 - 1. Playground will cost 1.6 million, budget approved for ~\$900,000, ARPA will cover some other funds.
- iii. DCR Recreation Fair June 10th from 10-3pm, register and use equipment.
- iv. Janice asked if we can work with Blue Bikes to have adaptive equipment available at their stations.
 - 1. Tim to reach out to them?

12. Public Comment

13. Next meeting Wednesday June 21, 2023 at 4PM

14. Closing

- a. Rademacher motioned to adjourn, Carpenter seconded, unanimous.

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.